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March 23, 1998 LB 989, 1075

of them. First of all, I don't think this is a little amendment; a simple little amendment. This is a very significant amendment. This amendment is actually the guts of a bill that was brought to the Business and Labor Committee this year, as Senator Tyson explained, as LB 1075. And it takes, really, section 5 from that bill and incorporates it as this amendment. What it does is it leaves out some things like definitions, et cetera, and so I'm not sure even as a committee member what the full impact of this amendment is. And I would like to go into that a little bit later on, but my main point here, and my first point, is...it is kind of an end-run around the committee. The committee said no to this bill and, you know, I've heard lots of people stand up on the floor this year and talk about that very issue about end-runs around the committee. And I don't think that it's something that we should start at this point with this bill. My second point is that I think you could question the germaneness of this. I'm not going to. I mean, I think it's a close call either way, but I think that the statement of intent on LB 989 reads that this bill allows a governmental unit to increase its budget no more than 4 percent to create a qualified sinking fund upon the affirmative vote of at least 75 percent of the governing body. It changes budget limitations for political subdivisions. It does not change guidelines for the CIR. It doesn't have anything to do with the comparability of municipalities. It doesn't have anything to do with labor and negotiations. So even though I think this amendment was crafted very well so that you can put it in here, I think it really violates the spirit of germaneness. The Commission of Industrial Relations is a very significant agency in our state, and it has built a history over a long period of time through many negotiations in many court cases. A good deal of predictability has come from the process over that period of time. When we were in committee hearings, we had representatives come before us who said that in the last ten years, in the last ten years, there have only been six cases involving municipalities before the Commission of Industrial Relations. Now think about that. That says that everybody understands the parameters of the CIR and everybody is acknowledging that when they do their negotiations.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.